

**OHV Recreation Travel Strategy Meeting
Suggestions for System Improvements
September 23, 2003 and October 22, 2003
Grouped by Main Idea**

Cards/pamphlets/maps/education/information availability

- FS needs to develop bullet list...put into card form available to public and FS employees/law enforcement/front desk...distribute with annual permit (ie California).
- Procedures manual...more detailed than bullet list. ROG++
- Develop information kiosk at major entry points.
- Pamphlets and maps should be available in multiple places (public).
- Reach through dealerships at purchase
- Use dealerships
- Develop a manual for use on FS trails (coordinate user groups with FS). Meet annually to discuss/change/adapt.
- Get rules pamphlet with annual permit.
- Bullet list of essential regulations—by area (forest, etc.)
- FS develops “Rules of use” card of pamphlet.
- Regulations in green rigs for employee to know want to hand out to users.
- Maps and booklet of user regulations need to be available at DMV locations so that when one registers their vehicles, they get this information.
- Maps and booklets of user regulations need to be available at ATV/snowmobiling stores, sports and hunting stores, etc.
- Be able to get access from FS or DNR of rules and regulations, also to have some consistency from area to area.
- FS should have brochures at motorized and non-motorized events/trade shows/club rides/schools/dealerships... (Montana).
- Forest Service should have brochures and racing events, cross country events, trade shows, club rides, dealerships and at schools (Smokey the Bear type education
- User group designations or maps for 2-wheelers, quads, snowmobiles etc.
- FS needs to go to more user groups with user maps and information
- GPS coordinates for trailheads and features...include UTM grids on map.
- GPS coordinates for trail heads etc.
- Education:
 - Through dealerships
 - Information kiosks
 - Maps
 - Have information given with forest pass
- Complete route analysis, or limit existing use knowing that another step is coming
- Pamphlets and maps at trailheads
- When purchasing a pass, emphasize education or regulations
- Provide info to set expectations.

- Direct user to areas that will meet expectation
- Complete inventory.
- Communication: Establish a user map(s). Change fee for maps.
- Kiosks and places where recreationalists buy their passes, equipment.
- Make info available at private businesses, etc. Restaurants, shops—have maps, brochures, etc available.
- Work with businesses in area
- With more information, it will help businesses, users, and the Forest
- Forest should have more publicity of available, desirable areas.
 - Includes signage
 - Proper placement of recreation place: put it in the “right” place
 - Market!
- Targeted marketing to potential user groups: wildlife viewers, motorized users, hikers, hunters, etc.
- FS should work with local businesses in marketing opportunities: provide maps, info trail updates, etc.
- Land-use designation: no worthwhile info provided
- Target marketing of user group to public
- Make FS info available via public and private enterprises. ie brochures, maps, conditions of trails, etc.
- Have FS information (maps, closures, regulations) available at local businesses.
- Work with local businesses to develop recreation opportunities and marketing.
- Make FS information available via public and private enterprises (ie brochures, maps, current trail information). At recreation businesses, motel/restaurants, chamber of commerce
- Education: need to *know* where recreation areas are in order to better compromise.
- Please sign every multi-use trail with use types and rules for use. Please maps and rules clearly posted at trailheads.

Internet

- Put info on internet with links.
- Put info on website
- Put info online—get links to other forests/regions.
- Less print information and more web-based information
- Websites for each region (or each national forest) which to include topography maps.
- Website for recreation use, communication, and local tourism to maximize opportunities.
- Put out professional website—look in to cost-sharing with businesses
- FS should target marketing to user groups to attract to the area: ex, websites, email, etc. Market to photo groups, hikers, ATV users, etc. Be creative. Use state websites, REI (ex).
- Robust and professional web sites
- Targeted marketing to user interest/class/activity: links to user group web sites

- Website info, make it accessible at businesses.

Signage

- Signage is a critical issue.
- Signing of closures should include reason
- Signage:
 - Signs that talk about what's allowed and restricted
 - Signs that talk to user etiquette: "Who yields to whom?"
 - All signing must meet acceptable sign standards
 - Could place at "kiosk"
 - Put on Forest maps and pamphlets
- Signs with emblems on where can/can't ride (on each road).
- User the international signs!
- Less signs, not more signs
- Have Colville tag to pay for signs/education, etc. like Inland Paper.
- A stiff federal law on people shooting at signs in the forest
- Washington State needs ATV license—sell licenses to pay for signs, pamphlets, etc.
- Provide reasons for closures on closed signs.
- Signage as always
- Reason for road closures posted in area.
- Enforcement: signage when there is a problem with a user group and what problem is! Rules posted at trailheads.
- Signage: full spectrum.
 - Triangle yield signs, pamphlets, maps.
 - Restricted uses.

Responsibility/knowledge of regulations

- Responsible use.
- Incumbent on users to know the regulations.
- Both FS employees and users need to know regulations.
- Keep front desk folks informed and up to speed with maps, pamphlets, etc.
- Establish advisory group on Forest specific to recreational travel.
- Awareness and responsibility of agency

Office Hours of Operation

- Offices need to be open on weekends and recreation personnel should work on weekends.
- Recreation folks should work weekends, holidays
- Duty officer on Saturdays and Sundays at visitor centers at national forest
- FS open on weekends and holidays!

Loop System/Access

- Need comprehensive loop system...(connectivity is the key).

- Need a trail “system” that ties it all together...not just loops. (Including trailheads and campgrounds).
- Look at using closed roads for beginners where it fits into the “system” and links trails.
- Look at linking communities and services within “system” analysis.
- Comprehensive loop system of trails
- Umatilla Forest: ATV trail system with maps, markers, bridges, campgrounds, etc. Think about adopting similar system.
- Areas to ride legally within the camping areas to access areas

Volunteers

- Need easier method for coordination between FS and volunteer groups (Volunteer Coordinator)
- FS needs to prioritize projects for volunteer work.
- Get user groups of different forms of activities to maintain and take care of trails and areas.
- Develop easier method for volunteer groups to coordinate with FS personnel.
- Forest Service needs to prioritize projects for volunteer labor.
- Establish volunteer host patrol system (provide FS radios). Sierra NF ex.
- Do X amount of work (hours) to get pass free.
- Have volunteer host patrols, as in Sierra NF. Rotate patrols and use FS radios.
- Use volunteers for enforcement
- Instead of a fine for damage—community service to fix and appreciate area.
- Volunteers need specifics to support each need.

Maps and road numbers matching

- Trail and road numbers need to match on ground and map
- Trail numbers and road numbers need to match map road and trail numbers and allowable uses for each trail number.
- Maps and match road numbers and trail numbers to map numbers.
- Planning—route identification

Cross-country use

- Trails need to be properly designed or redesigned and constructed or reconstructed to prevent soil and other resource damage
- Eliminate cross-country travel except where appropriate.
- Curtail use that results in development of a new route regardless of type of user (stop user-created trails).
- FS needs to go to user groups to explain consequences of illegal usage of areas that are designated as closed to motorized use.
- Allow reasonable off-route use (300 ft) to access...whatever (campsite, wood, etc).
- Build and maintain trails to standards, use groups to obtain, remove pioneered (user-created) trails.
- Tread lightly—AND “on the right trail.”

- Stay on designated trails.
- Eliminate cross-country travel except in designated areas.
- User groups to correct damaged areas and pioneered trails/routes.
- Curtail cross country use of motorized, or any use that creates trail—manage use!
- Restrictions against cross country travel
- Cross country trail should be restricted
- Tearing up the landscape, defacing. To broad the effect that special interest.
- Close pioneered trails and repair damage
- Prohibit pioneering of trails and roads and have sufficient penalties to deter use. Require violators to repair damage.

Closed unless open

- FS should adopt a closed unless open policy.
- CNF needs to adopt “closed unless marked open” policy
- Again CNF needs to operate their trail and road system as “closed unless marked open” via EO 11644 and 11989
- Designate the acceptable use within each area based on ecological impacts. Restrict each use to designated trail and areas. Prohibit those uses outside of designated areas. “Closed if not signed open!”
- Operate all NF as closed to motorized use unless marked open. Wenatchee NF is operating this way according to EO 11989 and 11644.

Design of Trails

- Design for full range of opportunities and level of difficulty.
- User group designations on the trail system maps and levels of difficulty.
- Also user level designations for trails: i.e. beginner, intermediate, advanced.
- Build and maintain trails to specifications.
- Trail design to obtain desired behavior.
- Registration/reservation for use—others could then see what level of use to expect
- Support multi-use trails: *design* of trail and trailhead is important to meet/exceed design/use expectations.
- Design of trails for designated uses and management areas
- Build trails to accommodate the use intended
- Design trail for the intended use! Horse, ATV, etc.
- Design of trails and other locations to meet or exceed designated use. Support multi-use.
- Proper design for trail heads and track so any trails...will meet all uses.

Education/permit

- FS should implement something similar to the hunter education programs: feature a manual on proper handling/use that is written/edited by the users. The information will be passed around by the users if there is this partnership.
 - Ex Motorcycle safety is taught at the community college

- To obtain a permit for any area, you should have to go through an education process first to obtain your pass, so you know what and how you can use the forest!
- Federal agency should require school with license (ATV and motorcycle)—similar to safe hunters course.
- Address age limits/classification in line with industry guidelines or skill levels (size, weight, etc).
- Licensed ORV users and registered ORVs.
- Minimum age limit for motorized users.
- Should have age limit to ATV use. Limit of 18 unless supervised by adult. Or must have drivers license unless supervised by adult. Who mandates this—the FS?
- Have general recreation license
- General recreation license
- License for ATV and other motorized users
- Require licensing
- Require training for new owners for motorized users
- FS needs to educate user groups about the ecological impacts and damage inflicted by their specific usage/recreation
- Education: not just ATV users, but all user groups need to understand regulations.
- Have blood alcohol standards
- Tourist money is lost because Idaho has different ATV regulations than WA—need licensing change.
- Roads on FS in Washington state require vehicle license even for rough 4WD roads.
- Require ORV vehicle licenses. Post ORV speed limit on mixed use trails.

Monitoring

- Sign-in box convenient.
- Get accurate user type and counts
- Document actual use—fill out trailhead.
- Monitoring to document conflicts and damage. Need data to support opinions.
- Monitoring to document conflicts
- Monitor usage (now cases are damage anecdotal)
- Monitor same place over long time
- Reservation system: registration when you are in the forest, like a flight plan.
 - Mandatory/non-mandatory
- Monitor impact of ORV use—use photos, videos.

Trail Danger

- Yield concept (how to do it to)
- Dangerous areas, blind spots, mark and enforce.
- Speed limits for designated areas (use trail designs to obtain compliance) Ask Mike how to do right

- Speed limit, except for race areas.
- Lots of safety issues when running multiple uses on one trail
- Safety is paramount between user groups
- Safety: Speed-bigger better

Funding/economy/tourism

- All users, not just those requiring permits, need to support FS funding
- Budget: FS should allocate money from the State
- IF the public lobbies for money from Congress, they should know what they are asking for—be informed.
 - Keep pressure
- FS should commit regular money to recreation. Now is 4% of budget. This should increase to supplement.
- FS aggressively protect/enhance its share of federal budget
- Have to balance use with funding for monitoring, enforcement, maintenance.
- User fees above tax base—(it's all our heritage, but scale costs.)
- User fees—support of all who use the Forest. Ex: BLM has dispersed camping permits.
- “Not enough money”: how specifically are the fees now used? No way to change how they are used?
- Do not establish tax system
- Cost share agreement with each group.
- Ask for more money from federal government
- FS should lobby the federal government for more recreation management dollars for trail maintenance, education, signage, enforcement, etc
- User fee for dispersed camping
- Funding: make a direct connection between level of use permitted and level of funding available
- Resources: funding and enforcements—these affect safety for users and impacts to the environment
- Better funding from fed. Government
- Aggressively protect and enhance FS share of federal budget
- Find a way to fund FS the way it should be! Reprogram funding to achieve results.
- Funding: how do people (groups) find out about grants?
- FS less money to police and educate the users
- Safety of users and ecosystem resources: There needs to be direct correlation between funding levels and specific use levels.
- FS needs to conduct study/research to determine accurate usage numbers and what users spend in CNF. Include economic analysis and work with businesses to learn how to capture trail user money.
- FS and users have to follow rules or will have conflicts—leads to loss of tourist dollars.
- What do local communities want? Economy development and money or keep ‘rural,’ local, less people, etc.

- Need to get communities to realize potential of recreation areas and work with businesses to encourage use/develop economy
- FS should work with legislators on licensing issues, will keep funds here.
- Regulations and economy should coincide
- CNF—allocate money, incorporate recreation and tourism strategy meeting. Include people concerned with quality of life and ecological impacts.
- Recreation from motorized tourism brings in more money than non-motorized (gas, supplies, food, tools,)
- Pressure, brought by user groups, on the state legislature, to bring on a container deposit law in the state of WA (a beverage container deposit law).
- Continue to allocate funds to economic diversification, ie tourism and recreation
- Creation of a good motorized system could help protect the wildlife habitat and if motorize use requires licenses, fees, etc. This could also be a funding resource for wildlife habitat and motorize use.
- Need to maximize opportunity for all user groups, which will then maximize tourism and economic benefit. If we maximize the experience for one group at the expense of other user groups, this will be counter-productive to increased tourism.
- Forest needs to manage *all* recreation use: if so, budget will increase, support will increase, and will be more positive
- FS needs to put more money toward increased management to keep down negative affects of the environment
- There needs to be direct relationship between funding levels and specific use levels. That way negative resource compaction can be monitored and mitigated and maintained.
- It doesn't cost anything for a trail to exist—to maintain or improve does cost money

Enforcement

- Enforcement:
 - Should have the court system utilize community service for offenders: it will mean more than just a fine.
- Enforcement:
 - Focus on problem areas
 - Be where the users are
- Police each other
- FS doesn't have resources to solve enforcement problem—need to find way (users do) to police...don't put all onus of responsibility on FS
- Have 1-800# to report violators
- Need larger license tags, or enforcement may not work well.
- Police each other—"snitch"
- Does FS have to be involved in enforcement?
- Bigger fines and stricter enforcements
- Enforcement: if you don't have money to enforce level of usage, usage levels need to be restricted.

- Make examples of violators
- FS should manage use:
 - Use photo monitoring
 - Manage cross-country use

Media

- Have positive vs. negative media input
- FS needs to communicate positive info to press, etc. Extension approach.
- Positive education articles.
- Provide positive and informative articles to the Spokesman Review regarding snowmobile and ATV uses and issues rather than the negative articles on these forest users. Honey is more effective than vinegar.

Identify troublemakers

- Only a few are the ones causing trouble
- Problems are the “renegades” who don’t come to meetings like this—how can we regulate them if they don’t “care”?
- Outreach to renegades

Collaborative Learning

- FS be proactive –attend user group meetings, give presentations
- Work with clubs, dealerships
- Work with clubs—Mountaineers, Winter Knights
- Meet with user group organizations annually to discuss pertinent issues
- Meet with user groups on an annual basis, to talk about rules, etc.
- Education: improved maps, also take time to contact user groups at their meeting place, inform user groups of what is legal for use in that area
- Train FS staff in ORV management, work with ORV folks to understand trail requirements
- FS needs to incorporate recreation strategy meetings—disappointed that the business folks are not at these meetings.
- Help local businesses learn how to take advantage of FS recreation opportunities.
- Incorporate Recreation and Tourism Strategy meeting.
- Should encourage more reasonable forest use
- FS needs to conduct/contract courses so others understand budget process, NEPA, etc.

Trail Expectations

- Expectations of users: can lead to disappointment—users need to change expectations, or condition themselves to expect multi use, etc.
- Lower expectations! Not for non-motorized users, but for motorized users. Don’t they expect to be limited to parking areas.

Non-motorized use/Noise

- Noise—establish sound enforcement (either add noise or delete)

- Motorized users need to understand and accept that their recreational use and activities are infringing upon non-motorized user experience and need to understand that space is needed to provide for the serenity, tranquility that non-motorized users seek. Noise and air pollution from their motors negatively affect non-motorized user groups.
- Provide for solitude for users, especially from motorized use.
- Need for motorized users to accept and respect certain recreationists need for solitude and the space needed to provide that solitude.
- There is a certain threshold in which non-motorized users cannot accept motorized use. For me it is the illegal entries into non-motorized user areas and recklessness of numerous motorized users destroying ecological resources (mud bogging) and disrupting the serenity and tranquility that non-motorized users seek. Furthermore motorized users need to understand and accept that their recreation activities are infringing on the non-motorized user experience and that solitude because noise and exhaust from motorized users can be heard and smelt from a much farther distance.
- Some trails not appropriate for motorized vehicles

Motorized Users

- Motorized users “lose” when compromise is suggested. They are getting tired of losing. FS can’t pick on just one group.
- Hunters need designated areas. Also need to retrieve game with ATVs—perhaps could purchase a special use permit for that reason.
- Open up cross country trails to 4-wheelers during summer
- Non-motorized users need to recognize that some handicapped people may need to use motorized means to be able to access areas that they otherwise may not have a chance to see.
- Problem of blame: for example, dams created are blamed on motorized users, when it is often backpackers causing the damage.
- Larger use area for motorized vehicle use will avoid one area being used up or overused.
- Motorcycles tear up trails, create ruts.

Compromise

- Motorized users understand non-motorized needs and vice-versa.
- Work toward compromise but don’t expect it in all instances...there are areas in which compromise is not possible.
- Mutual acceptance
 - Size of space: non-motorized users need more space for ‘tranquility,’ etc.
- Compromise between user groups:
 - speed is a safety issue for all users
 - need more understanding of safety issues and compromise
- Increased population=more forest users=need for more compromise.

- Need to educate non-motorized users that one encounter with a motorized user does not ruin their experience
- Too many people, if not now, in the future. The cooperation between user groups will be more and more necessary.
- It is much easier for motorized users to “cooperate” with each other. It basically briars down to getting around each other when they meet, after they cooperate with the passing, they are a happily on their way. However, with solitude-seekers (hikers, snow-shoers, skiers) the noise and smell of fumes is constant on a busy day.
- Needs to be a set of guidelines or principles agreed upon between motorized and non-motorized users
- Education on areas available for non-motorized and motorized trails so both can be happy using appropriate trails
- Info on how to share trails to be posted both at trailhead and along the trail
- Joint work parties with diverse user groups represented
- FS promote joint work parties with all possible user activities to promote joint understanding of each other’s needs and restrictions.
- FS clearing house for interaction between recreation groups (education work parties).
- Trail maintenance with input and work from all possible user varieties to promote joint understanding of each user’s needs.
- “Work party facilitation meetings”
- Joint work parties of different user groups to educate all parties of their needs on the trails.
- FS should promote joint work parties to promote joint understanding...also serve as clearing house to facilitate group work parties
- Idaho has ethics brochure. Pete will get Esther too.

Multi-use trails

- Lands should be designated multi-use when possible and signed that way
- Please leave the non-motorized areas and the motorized use as much alone as possible
- Joint use in most cases can be compatible
- Open more areas for multi-use

Separate use trails

- Users *want* to be sensitive to other user groups, therefore we may need to separate areas to allow for that. If trail is multi-use but not designed well for it, neither user group will have fun in the area. For example, hikers and ATV users can be compared to kindergarteners playing with football players. One group is afraid of getting hurt, the other afraid of hurting.
- Some combined trails OK but if all combined motorized tend to having motorized and non-motorized together like putting a kindergarten kid to play football with NFL team.

- Separate trails and areas are necessary for some users (horsemen and hikers) to enjoy their recreation time
- No compromise: between motorized trails and non-motorized trails. This is easy to understand.
- Separate trails in areas for non-compatible users.
- ORVs and hikers incompatible
- Better separation of hikers and motorized vehicles.
- Specific users need specific accessibility

Disperse Use

- Let's not lose trails! Shrinking will only cause more impact on main trails
- "Disperse rather than shrink area" –Amen!
- Disperse use

Advisory Board

- Recreational trail use advisory board
- FS should establish an Advisory Group
- Advisory committee

Environment

- Train to be environmentally friendly
- Some areas are too sensitive—therefore those areas can cater only to certain groups.
- *Any* use has impact on environment. FS needs to stimulate change where/when it needs to be done.
- Our needs are secondary to native needs: wildlife, nature.
- Spread of noxious weeds is a concern
- Noxious weeds.
- Use registered hay
- What about damage from cattle?
- Prohibit cattle grazing
- Environmental degradation not restricted to one user group
- Designated recreation areas should be based on ecological impacts to that area.
- Wildlife as a user group—need greater recognition of this.
- Impacts analysis and decision making of recreation needs to be based on:
 - Laws
 - Scientific integrity
 - Ecological carrying capacity
- Trash: empty containers law as in Oregon—will entice people to pack it in, pack it out to collect deposit
- Dumpsters: locate in recreation areas, perhaps invent one with a manual wheel compaction system
- FS manual trash compactors in various areas

- The effect of use on environment is not contraindicated for use when managed appropriately
- Management of recreation trails should make threatened and endangered species a top concern.
- All users to remove their feces
- Need to develop much greater understanding of how motorized use (and even non-motorized use) affects wildlife: prey species, predators, etc, and their habitat.
- Our needs to use motorized vehicles in the forest must ultimately be acknowledge as secondary to wildlife needs. Our needs are in the context of “leisure time” while wildlife’s needs are in the context of home, habitat, roaming, breeding, and feeding needs.
- Un-represented user group: native
- Educate recreationists on how fragile or not the areas is and on how the area is to be used!
- Tours to damaged areas. Tours to controlled areas. (for education)
- These meetings would benefit from making this sort of statement in the beginning. Collaborative group participants should be reminded that there are forest users that are not represented directly at meetings: wildlife.
- Designated ORV areas should be based on ecological impacts and effects on non-motorized users and wildlife.
- Close areas that are impacted by ORV use or other recreational trail use.
- Decision making and planning must be based on scientific integrity and defensibility and ecological carrying capacity to protect resource damage
- Decision making and planning must be legally binding to NEPA, ESA, Forest Plan, CWA, NFMA, FSH, EO etc,
- Do not build more roads.
- Greater education on recreational impacts/effects on wildlife and ecology
- Planning and decision making should be based on scientific integrity and defensibility
- Planning and decision making needs to be based on scientific integrity and defensibility.
- Planning and decision making must meet all laws and regulations, ie Forest Plan, clean water act, clean air act, ESA, NEPA, NFMA, APA, EO, for the protection and recovery of resources.

Leave No Trace

- Promote “leave no trace” to all groups at all locations
- Leave no trace education
- Promote leave no trace philosophy!
- Promote LNT education program
- Promote “leave no trace”

Other

- Change or address state/county laws to accommodate quads and other ATVs on roads. (ie Idaho).

- Consider “hours” of quality experience, not just “miles.”
- Examine role of FS...if this has changed, communicate it. (Example—away from timber, towards recreation). This will help users identify if lobby group is needed, etc.
- Ability to rent from USFS, satellite telephones...user pays for any emergency calls and for daily rental of the phone
- Management must be legally compliant
- Emphasize problem areas.
- Lack of development of guiding principles that will guide trail and land use designation.
- Population is increasing—have to maximize opportunity, which will not maximize experience.
- Forest should take the approach of making recreation areas desirable to the group that they might interest. They will use the place if it interests them.
- Accurate use of trails
- EWA has edge in un-crowded outdoor recreation opportunities (this is an advantage in drawing business and educated skilled workers.
- Local attitude might be to keep out outsiders
- Horse manure at trailhead offends urban users! (Too bad!)
- Develop a trail around Pend Oreille River.
- Co-sponsor the Selkirk Loop Bike Tour for 2004 to bring road cyclist enthusiast to region
- Promote the Selkirk/Kettle Range as an ecological asset
- Allow handicapped areas for ATV riding—slower speeds, etc.
- FS needs change in increased management
- To see some form of permit or way for elderly and handicapped to get into some areas that are now closed to get game from walk in areas.

- 1. No clear understanding or communication of current regulations and policies: don't know where it's legal to ride, don't know when others are breaking the rules, get different message from the agency, rules seem to change in mid-stream.**
- 2. Need to be assured of access for all users and interest groups. Need to provide for a particular activity or sport.**
- 3. Need for information and education.**
- 4. Need for user ethics: sharing of users, conflicts with user groups, conflicts with other user groups.**
- 5. Concerns about the economy and tourism, with or without any particular user group.**
- 6. Need for compromise: Need for better communication, need for multi-use trails that are only non-motorized, need for non-motorized users to accept motorized use.**
- 7. Ability of the Forest Service to manage recreation: not enough money, doesn't fix facilities, doesn't address safety concerns, doesn't fix resource damage, doesn't enforce regulations and rules that exist.**
- 8. Concerns about all use and how it affects the environment.**